

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 052024
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APPROVED BY:IO:TBROWN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 052024

FOLLOWING REPEAT BANGKOK 6230 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO HONG
KONG MOSCOW PARIS PEKING VIENTIANE CINCPAC FEB 28.
QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 6230

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, MOPS, PROP, PEPR, VM, CB, CH, FR, UR

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE MAJOR VIETNAMESE ATTACK ON KAMPUCHEA IN MARCH

REF: VIENTIANE 263

1. FRENCH SPECULATION REPORTED IN REFTEL PARALLELS
REPORT BY UPI BANGKOK CORRESPONDENT, ALAN DAWSON,
PUBLISHED IN BANGKOK POST FEB 26. DAWSON QUOTED
"MILITARY AND INTELLIGENCE SOURCES" (PRESUMABLY IN
BANGKOK) AS STATING THAT 200,000 VIETNAMESE TROOPS ARE
MASSED IN THE BORDER AREA AND IDENTIFYING THEM AS
"ALMOST CERTAINLY" AN INVASION ARMY. DAWSON ARTICLE
WENT ON TO REPORT THAT AT LEAST TEN VIETNAMESE
INFANTRY DIVISIONS ARE POISED ON THE VIET-NAM-CAMBODIA
FRONTIER, WITH TWO OTHER VIETNAMESE DIVISIONS ON THE
LAOS-CAMBODIA BORDER.

2. WE HAVE SEEN NO HARD INTELLIGENCE TO SUPPORT EITHER
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FRENCH SPECULATION OR UPI ARTICLE. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT
THE VIETNAMESE ARE CONTINUING TO EMPHASIZE DIPLOMACY,
RATHER THAN MILITARY ACTION TO RESOLVE BORDER CONFLICT.
WE SURMISE THAT DAWSON MAY HAVE OBTAINED MUCH OF MATERIAL
FOR HIS ARTICLE FROM FRENCH EMBASSY IN BANGKOK, WHICH
HAS REGULARLY BRIEFED FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS IN THAILAND
ON VIETNAMESE-CAMBODIAN BORDER CONFLICT. THIS EMBASSY

HAS NOT RPT NOT RECENTLY BEEN IN TOUCH WITH DAWSON ON
THIS OR ANY OTHER ISSUE.

WHITEHOUSE UNQUOTE VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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